

Missouri Department of Natural Resources Data Processing Standard

Topic: Softw are Standards

Item: B

Status: Version 1.3

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See also: n/a

This Standard was reviewed and approved

by:___

Jeff Staake, Deputy Director Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources

on: signed paper kept on file

Date

For staff to make efficient use of computing capabilities, departmental softw are standards must be follow ed. Otherwise, staff training, data exchange, compatibility, automated distibution of vendor-recommended security patches, and similar issues become unmanageable. In addition, there is not enough technical staff time and existing expertise to support every possible softw are product and combination of products. This document describes the department's standard softw are and the support provided. Please ensure you are using the latest copy of this document, since softw are standards will be updated/amended as needed. Current copies may alw ays be accessed electronically via the departmental network or web site.

- A. MIS is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date list of standard software. Refer to the "Standard Software" grid on page 4 for this list.
- B. The list of standard softw are is periodically reviewed by MIS and the Data Processing Coordinators to determine if it is in the interest of the department to continue to use and support particular softw are, or to add softw are to the list.
- C. Softw are falls into two main categories:
 - 1. Standard, for high-quality softw are that is likely to be viable in the future as well as the present. Availability of in-house and vendor support plus many other factors are taken into account. Only one softw are package will be recommended per category whenever possible to further standardization efforts within the department. All standard softw are receives full support;
 - 2. Non-standard, for softw are that does not meet the above criteria. Non-standard softw are must generally be phased out by a future date, to be determined by MIS and the Data Processing Coordinators. All orders for non-standard softw are must be accompanied by a technical justification for such a purchase, and be routed first to the appropriate DP Coordinator and then to MIS for approval. Simple cost considerations will normally not be sufficient justification.
- D. MIS is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date list of non-standard softw are that may continue to receive support while the department migrates to standard softw are. Support for and use of such softw are is expected to be phased out at a future date, as yet to be determined. MIS and the Data Processing Coordinators will work together to make such decisions. Refer to the "Non-Standard Software and Support Provided" grid on page 6 for this list.

- E. Levels of in-house support may include the following:
 - 1. **Full support** includes training arrangements, installation, resolution of hardware and compatibility problems, and assistance with difficult technical user questions. The support is provided (as a general rule) by IRMs and other data processing staff;
 - Minimal support includes installation, resolution of known hardware and compatibility problems, and help with known answers to user questions. Some divisions may choose to provide additional support to their staff;
 - Unsupported software receives support strictly from the software manufacturer and other external sources. Some divisions may choose to continue providing some support to their staff until their migration to standard products is completed;
 - 4. Phased out softw are must no longer be used within the department. One exception is softw are required for the proper function of specialized testing equipment, defined as: Computers which are used solely or primarily for measuring, collecting, and/or analyzing data from electronic instruments.
- F. Any software not listed in the "Standard Software" grid on page 4 or the "Non-Standard Software and Support Provided" grid on page 6 is non-standard and unsupported.
- G. New er versions of software packages are not automatically included within the department's standard. Implementing new versions of some software products, such as Office suites, without a coordinated departmental effort can lead to serious compatibility and/or support issues.
 - 1. The grid indicates w ith a "+" symbol w hich product categories don't generally suffer from significant implement issues between versions, and newer versions of such products are w ithin the standard unless a problem is found w ith a specific version. In the event of such a problem, MIS w ill amend the standard to note the exclusion, and IRMs and DP Coordinators w ill be involved and informed.
 - 2. For products without the "+" symbol, new er versions are considered outside the standard unless/until the standard is amended to include them, and may not be implemented except for limited testing conducted by IRMs and MIS staff.
- H. So-called "Beta", "Alpha", "Pre-release", and other test or preview versions of new products, upgrades, or individual softw are components or drivers may not be used on any system connected to the departmental network without express written permission (paper or electronic documents) from MIS. This is necessary to protect the reliability, performance, and security of the network.
- I. Softw are w hich interacts directly w ith the internal structure of the departmental netw ork, including but not limited to netw ork management softw are and packet and traffic monitors, may not be used on any system connected to the departmental netw ork w ithout express w ritten permission from MIS. This is necessary to protect the reliability, performance, and security of the netw ork.
- J. Considering the volume of available softw are in the market, there are certainly softw are categories that have not been standardized at this time. A staff member who believes that a microcomputer softw are package should be made standard in a category not addressed by current standards needs to speak with their division's DP Coordinator.

There is a supplement to this document, "Office Automation Product Standards", the rationale behind choosing some of these software packages as standards. rescinds all previous standards issued regarding this topic.	

Standard Software

Category	Software Software			Version +		
Application Development	Cool:Gen		p	6.0		
	Visual Age for Java		p	3.5		
	WebSphere		Pu	3.5		
Database (and related software)	Microsoft Access (in MS-Office Suite)	Pu	97			
	DB2		Pu	7.2		
Disk Defragmentation	Diskeeper			6.0		
Disk Partitioning	Partition Magic			6.0		
E-mail and Workgroup (client)	Lotus Notes	M	Pu	5.0		
E-mail and Workgroup (server)	Lotus Domino	M	p	5.0		
Graphical Information Systems (GIS)	ESRI ArcView suite of products			8.1		
Graphics	Microsoft PowerPoint (in MS-Office Suite	e) ፆህ		97		
Internet Browser	Microsoft Internet Explorer			6.0		
Local Area Network Support	Microsoft Windows 2000 Server	M	Pu			
Mainframe Communications	Attachmate Extra			6.x		
Mainframe Query Reporting Tool	Focus		Pu	4.35		
	Microsoft Access			97		
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional	M	Pu			
Spreadsheet	Microsoft Excel (in MS-Office Suite)		Pu	97		
Suites	Microsoft Office Professional Suite	M	Pu	97		
Systems Management	Microsoft Systems Management Server	2.0				
Utilities	Network Associates (McAfee) Anti Virus		4.5			
	WinZip by Nico Mak Computing			8.0 +		
World-Wide-Web Design		5.0				
	DreamWeaver			3 or 4		
	Microsoft FrontPage			98		
World-Wide-Web Servers	Servers Lotus Domino					
	Microsoft Internet Information Server			5.x, 4.0		
Word Processing	Microsoft Word (in MS-Office Suite)		Pu	97		

- + New er versions are also included, unless a significant compatibility/support problem is discovered that requires a specific version be avoided. If the + symbol does not appear next to a version number in the list, new er versions must not be implemented without official notice from MIS that a particular upgrade poses no significant support or compatibility problems.
- An attachment to this standard, "Office Automation Product Standards", provides more information on the reasons this software was selected as a standard.
- Data processing support staff have received or will receive training on this software so that MIS and Information Resource Managers can provide the best possible support for this standard software.

Non-Standard Software and Support Provided

		Platforms							
Category	Software	Version +	Win. 200 0	Win. NT	Win. 95	Win. 3.x	OS/ 2	DO S	Support Available
Operating System	Microsoft Windows NT Workstation AND Server	4.0		✓					Full Support until 12/31/2002, Minimal Support until 6/30/2003,
									Phased Out afterward due to end-of-life from the vendor and the resulting lack of security patches and support

⁺ Newer versions are also included. If this symbol does not appear, newer versions must not be implemented without official notice from MIS that a particular upgrade poses no significant support or compatibility problems.

[✓] This software is supported on this platform to the extent listed under "support available." However, support for and use of this combination of software and platform is expected to be phased out at a future date, as yet to be determined. MIS and the Data Processing Coordinators will work together to make such decisions.